



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
www.mass.gov/masshealth



Eligibility Operations Memo 06-08
July 1, 2006

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Russ Kulp, Director, MassHealth Operations

RE: **Expansion of Services for Adult MassHealth Members and Tobacco Cessation Services for MassHealth Members of All Ages**

Background

Due to a new state law, effective July 1, 2006, MassHealth will cover more services for eligible members aged 21 or older. MassHealth already covers these services for members under the age of 21. In addition, MassHealth will cover tobacco cessation services for members of all ages who smoke or use other tobacco products, such as chewing tobacco.

Eligible Members

Adults who are enrolled in MassHealth Standard, Prenatal, CommonHealth, Basic, and Family Assistance for persons with HIV are eligible to receive all of the new adult services listed in this memo.

Adults who are enrolled in MassHealth Essential are eligible to receive all of the new adult services listed in this memo, **except** vision, chiropractor, and orthotic services.

Tobacco Cessation Services

Members of all ages enrolled in MassHealth Standard, Prenatal, CommonHealth, and Family Assistance for persons with HIV, and members who get direct coverage (**not** premium assistance) for MassHealth Basic, Essential, and Family Assistance for children are eligible to receive tobacco cessation services.

New Services for Adults

Effective July 1, 2006, MassHealth will cover the following services for the eligible adults described earlier in this memo. Certain conditions and limitations may apply, including, but not limited to, prior authorization for certain services. MassHealth Enrollment Center (MEC)

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**New Services
for Adults
(cont.)**

representatives who are contacted by providers of the services listed below should refer the providers to All Provider Bulletin 155, issued in June 2006. The bulletin contains the necessary guidance and references for providers, including the telephone number for MassHealth Customer Service.

Dental Services

MassHealth will cover medically necessary dental services, including exams, prophylaxis, restorations, certain endodontics, including root canals, and dentures. Some of these services require prior authorization.

Vision Services

MassHealth will cover medically necessary eyeglasses, eyeglass parts, eyeglass dispensing, certain contact lenses, and other visual aids, including magnifying aids. (These vision services are **not** covered for members enrolled in MassHealth Essential.) Vision exams continue to be covered by MassHealth.

Chiropractor Services

MassHealth will cover medically necessary services provided by a chiropractor. (Services provided by a chiropractor are **not** covered for members enrolled in MassHealth Essential.)

Orthotics

MassHealth will cover medically necessary orthotic services. In addition to other changes, orthotic shoes will no longer be restricted to members with severe diabetic foot disease. (Orthotic services are **not** covered for members enrolled in MassHealth Essential.)

Prosthetics

MassHealth will cover medically necessary prosthetic services.

Certain 24-Hour Substance Abuse Treatment Services

MassHealth will cover 24-hour post-medical detoxification substance abuse treatment services, defined as Level IIIB and Level IIIC by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Abuse Services.

Acute Inpatient Hospital Administratively Necessary Days

MassHealth will cover all administratively necessary inpatient stays.

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**New Services
for Adults
(cont.)**

Tobacco Cessation Services

Effective July 1, 2006, MassHealth will cover tobacco cessation services for eligible members of any age described earlier in this memo who are enrolled in the coverage types listed and who smoke or use tobacco products, such as chewing tobacco.

MassHealth members may receive group or individual counseling by requesting tobacco cessation counseling services from MassHealth physicians, community health centers, or acute hospital outpatient departments (other than the emergency department).

In addition, MassHealth members may request a prescription from their clinician for nicotine replacement products, including nicotine patches, gum, and lozenges. MassHealth will also cover bupropion, a non-nicotine-based drug, to help members quit.

Member Notice

MassHealth has issued a notice to members informing them of the expanded benefits. To see a copy of this notice, go to the MassHealth Web site at www.mass.gov/masshealth. Click on Information for MassHealth Members and then on Coverage Updates. Click on "New Services for Adults and Tobacco Cessation Services for Members of All Ages."

**Provider
Transmittal
Letters**

MassHealth will publish transmittal letters to update the applicable provider manuals to accommodate the expansion services for adult members and the new tobacco cessation benefit. Providers can view these transmittal letters on the MassHealth Web site at www.mass.gov/masshealthpubs. Click on MassHealth Regulations and Other Publications. Click on Provider Library and then on Transmittal Letters.

Questions

If you have any questions about this memo, please contact the MassHealth Member Services Policy Implementation Unit through your MEC liaison or your team manager.
